



Supreme Court of Illinois

OCTOBER 13, 2015

JOSEPH R. TYBOR, 1947-2015

Joseph R. Tybor, longtime spokesperson for the Illinois Supreme Court, passed away on Saturday, October 10, 2015 at his home in Countryside. He was 68.

Mr. Tybor began working for the Court in 1998 as its Director of Communications after a 30-year journalism career in Chicago.

"My colleagues and I are deeply saddened by Joe's passing. He was truly dedicated to his role as the voice of the Illinois Supreme Court, and we watched in awe as he continued to carry out his duties even as he fought his illness," Chief Justice Rita B. Garman said. "He was an example to us all of courage and strength. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, in which he took such great pride. We will miss his professionalism, his optimism, and his cheerful demeanor."

Mr. Tybor's journalism career started at the Associated Press in the late 1960s. After serving in the U.S. Army and attending night classes to earn a law degree, Mr. Tybor took a job at the Chicago Tribune, where he wrote about legal affairs and then Notre Dame sports.

In 1986, the Chicago Tribune nominated Mr. Tybor for a Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of the city's criminal justice system. He also founded "Irish Eyes," one of the first subscription-based sports sites of its kind.

While Mr. Tybor took great pride in his work as a journalist, he frequently described his position with the Supreme Court as the best job in the world.

During his 17 years as the Supreme Court's spokesperson, Mr. Tybor responded to countless media calls and helped the justices plan and implement dozens of initiatives, including the Court's policy on extended media coverage.

He is survived by his wife, Sandra; daughter, Sarah (Kevin) Clark; son, Adam (Kelly) Tybor; siblings, Julia Moore, Donna Siedschlag and David Tybor; grandchildren, Harrison Joseph Clark, Charles Jacob Tybor and Erin Catherine Tybor; and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be from 3 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at Hallowell & James Funeral Home, 1025 W. 55th St., in Countryside. Prayers will be at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at the funeral home and mass will be at 10 a.m. at St. Cletus Church in LaGrange.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to Block Integrative Cancer Center, Skokie, IL or the National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation.

View more at <http://www.hjfunerals.com/obituaries/2015/10/12/joseph-ronald-tybor/>

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Bethany Krajelis, senior communications specialist to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312.793.0870 or 630.835.5970.